



FORUM

Facts, Outcomes, & Research... Useful for Managing

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT DATA ENABLES DOC TO DO EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

BY ELIZABETH K. DRAKE

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has an abundance of data that research staff turns into information so people can make informed decisions. We also obtain data from various agencies to supplement DOC data. For example, our unit has been using data from the Employment Security Department (ESD) to determine the employment rate of offenders. Employment data can also help us to determine what types of jobs offenders obtain and how much money they earn. We use ESD data for research projects and reports, but we are also beginning to use employment data to assist with performance measures.

Employment data is commonly used by DOC in the research setting. For example, ESD data was used in the study "Class I Impacts: Work During Incarceration and its Effects on Post-Prison Employment Patterns and Recidivism." (See publication of the month for web address.) With the use of ESD data, we discovered that offenders who participated in Class I industries were employed at a higher rate. Sixty-nine percent of the Class I offenders were employed within one year of release compared to only 58 percent of the non-participants. Employment data was also used to determine the average wages earned within one year of release. Class I participants earned an average of \$10,600 compared to non-participants who earned an average of \$7,000.

Research staff are also in the process of working on another study using ESD data to determine the employment rate of offenders who have gone through Education Services while incarcerated. The study is expected to be completed in fall 2005 and will look at employment rates, the type of jobs obtained upon release, and average wages earned. In addition, the study will look at recidivism and how employment may affect recidivism.

Research staff also uses ESD data for reports. For example, we have done analysis on employment outcomes for offenders who earn vocational program certificates during incarceration. Offenders who earned one-year vocational program certificates were employed at a higher rate (83 percent within one year) than offenders who earned less than one-year vocational program certificates (64 percent employed).

Research staff are in the beginning stages of using ESD data to determine the employment rate for the community supervision population. We are expecting to produce this report on a quarterly basis in the near future. Data will show what percent of offenders are employed, what type of jobs they hold, and the average wages they earn.

There is a plethora of information available to us in the age of advanced technology. As you can see, DOC learns much useful information by maintaining data-sharing agreements with other agencies. In addition to the Employment Security

Department, DOC also receives valuable information from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, the Washington State Patrol, the Sentencing Guidelines



FOR YOUR INFORMATION..

PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

"Class I Impacts: Work During Incarceration and its Effects on Post-Prison Employment Patterns and Recidivism" by Elizabeth K. Drake is available on our website at <http://docnet3/usercontents/Research/BudgetAndResearch/studies.htm>.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

WorkSource is the Employment Security Department's joint venture of organizations dedicated to addressing Washington State's employment needs. www.go2worksource.com.

DEFINITION OF THE MONTH

Conundrum – A complicated problem or a problem with no satisfactory solution.

Quandary – A perplexing situation or state.

DOC MONTHLY STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2005

CONFINEMENT POPULATION	17,580
Total Confinement	15,810
Work Release	720
In State Rented Beds	526
Out of State Rented Beds	524

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS POPULATION

ACTIVE SUPERVISION	29,051
RMA	8,024
RMB	7,023
RMC	2,234
RMD	10,223
Unclassified	1,547
MONETARY	86
INACTIVE STATUS	15,017

ESCAPES FROM SECURITY LEVELS 2-5, FOR FY05

	Date	Type	Return
Coyote Ridge CC	07/14/04	Facility	07/15/04
Olympic CC	08/13/04	Facility	-----
WCCW	11/04/04	Work Crew	11/04/04
Larch CC	12/20/04	Work Crew	01/30/05
Tacoma PR	01/19/05	Facility	02/22/05
Larch CC	04/07/05	Work Crew	04/07/05
Airway Heights CC	05/20/05	Work Crew	-----
Airway Heights CC	06/13/05	Work Crew	06/13/05

TO CONTACT PLANNING AND RESEARCH

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Webpages, under Budget and Research, on the DOCNET homepage

Commission, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Data from these agencies helps research folks get a broader perspective on the criminal justice system than simply looking at DOC data.

** Data from the Employment Security Department is obtained through a data-sharing agreement. It is highly confidential and used only to identify general trends for research purposes. Data can not be used to identify individual offenders.*